

the Committee on Natural Resources is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,  
*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 29, 2016.

Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,  
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. THORNBERRY: I am writing concerning H.R. 4909, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017.

This legislation contains provisions within the Committee on Agriculture's Rule X jurisdiction. As a result of your having consulted with the Committee and in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee on Agriculture will forego action on the bill. This is being done on the basis of our mutual understanding that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture with respect to the appointment of conferees, or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Committee Report and in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,  
*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 3, 2016.

Hon. MICHAEL CONAWAY,  
*Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4909, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. I agree that the Committee on Agriculture has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Agriculture is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,  
*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 29, 2016.

Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,  
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN THORNBERRY: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 4909, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017." This legislation contains provisions that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive my committee's right to sequential referral. I do so with the understanding that by waiving formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on Ways and Means does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule

X jurisdiction. I request that you urge the Speaker to name members of my committee to any conference committee that is convened to consider such provisions.

Please include this letter and your response confirming our understanding in the committee report on H.R. 4909, and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY,  
*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 3, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,  
*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4909, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. I agree that the Committee on Ways and Means has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Ways and Means is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,  
*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 3, 2016.

Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,  
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,  
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN THORNBERRY: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 4909, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017." While the legislation does contain provisions within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee will not request a sequential referral so that it can proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Committee takes this action with the understanding that its jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as such legislation moves forward. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment to any House-Senate conference on such legislation and requests your support when such a request is made.

Finally, I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters be included in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 4909 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,  
*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 3, 2016.

Hon. FRED UPTON,  
*Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4909, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. I agree that the Committee on Energy and Commerce has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the inter-

est of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Energy and Commerce is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,  
*Chairman.*

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

SPEECH OF

**HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 17, 2016*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4909) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Chair, I join my colleagues in opposition to this amendment.

Like members on both sides of this debate, I strongly support strengthening our domestic industrial base. I also support efficiently using taxpayer dollars to ensure our military has the best systems and equipment.

While well intentioned, this amendment is overly broad and could have serious unintended consequences for taxpayers, for our military, and for our foreign policy.

My colleagues have discussed the cost and technical issues. I share these concerns about negatively disrupting the AMRAAM and potentially other tactical missile programs.

We should also consider the consequences this amendment may have for our ability to engage in cost sharing with our international allies and partners.

Cost sharing on a variety of platforms can drive competition, improve technologies available to our military, and lower costs for taxpayers. It also strengthens the partnerships we leverage to provide stability and security for the United States.

It is my understanding that a reasonable path forward exists to ensure we can build our domestic manufacturing base for solid rocket motors.

I encourage my colleagues to oppose this amendment so that we can advance a targeted solution to address the specific programmatic concerns of the sponsor, without imposing an overbroad mandate that disrupts all tactical missile programs.

Again, thank you Congresswoman MCSALLY and Ranking Member SMITH.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROBERT J. DOLD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 17, 2016*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4909) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense

and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Chair, I rise today to highlight the importance of my amendment to extend the authorization of a Naval construction project located at Great Lakes Naval Station in Illinois for one year.

In 2013 the installation at Great Lakes reached out to request funds for the construction of a new unaccompanied housing building on the base for recently enlisted individuals. The current housing building is suffering from ongoing maintenance issues making the building unsuitable and inadequate.

Mr. Chair, this year's NDAA represents a renewed investment in our soldiers with a pay raise, increased access to health care, and a number of other positive steps to support our fighting men and women. My amendment represents another positive investment in our troops. These men and women deserve to be housed in good conditions. This amendment does not add any cost to the legislation, and simply extends the authorization of this already appropriated for construction project for Fiscal Year 2017.

CONGRATULATING KIM BARKS OF COMPLETE TRUCK & RV REPAIR FOR RECEIVING THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT 2016 EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD—JACK HECK AWARD

### HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2016*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Kim Barks. She is the owner of Complete Truck & RV Repair and is receiving the 2016 Employer of the Year Award—Jack Heck Award from the City of St. Charles Economic Development Department.

When Complete Truck & RV Repair opened as a family-run business in 2013, it had ten employees. Now, the shop is staffed by 22 employees and has been able to add Restoration, Fabrication, Auto & RV Detailing, and Towing Services. The Barks family also added another location for RV storage to continue serving their customers.

To say that Complete Truck & RV Repair contributes to the St. Charles community would almost be an understatement. Kim and her father are passionate about animals and built a dog park for guests who come to service their vehicles. Kim is also a supporter of the organization Dogs on Duty, Five Acres Animal Shelter, and the Humane Society.

Another part of Complete Truck & RV Repair's community outreach is its contribution to the St. Charles' Backstoppers. Kim's father has helped the Backstoppers raise money for over 15 years. Complete Truck & RV Repair is hosting the 1st Annual Backstoppers Summer Dance June 24th at the Machinists' Hall to continue this fundraising effort. The Barks and their repair business work year round to raise awareness for the Backstoppers. The business owns a fire truck, named Red. Red travels around town to various fire houses to promote awareness of the Backstoppers fund. Red also can be seen in various city parades.

Complete Truck & RV Repair hires veterans and is part of the Hire Heroes Program. The business honors veterans by giving them a discount. It currently has five veterans employed on the Complete Truck & RV Repair staff. Complete Truck & RV Repair also gives Police Officers, EMS, and Firefighters a discount on services.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Complete Truck & RV Repair for its accomplishment as the 2016 Employer of the Year Award—Jack Heck Award.

RECOGNIZING MARINE CORPS  
MASTER SERGEANT FRANK  
MASON

### HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2016*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, five years ago, I had the honor of bringing to the attention of this House a tribute for a great Devil Dog celebrating his 90th birthday. Once again, I have been given this honor and rise to recognize Marine Corps Master Sergeant Frank Mason who will be turning 95 this month.

As I said at that time, Frank is part of America's greatest generation who led our nation to victory in World War II and came home to live a life every one of us should be blessed to have. On May 3, 2011, I outlined Frank's life story of service and sacrifice in great detail, so here I will just remind everyone briefly that he enlisted in the Marine Corps at 17, proudly serving in World War II in China and the Philippines, held as a prisoner of war for over three years, and once again served during the Korean War, including the critical and historic Battle of the Chosin Reservoir.

While I initially searched for new words to describe Frank and his service, I have come to the realization that what was stated five years ago remains the best description and rings just as true today. So, with no apology for repeating my previous remarks, I believe Frank's account of these events aptly reflects the attitude of a Marine rifleman and the proud tradition and honor of the Marine Corps to this very day. Frank asserted, "We never surrendered. We were ordered to stop fighting."

I will also repeat the quote I used at the time from Ronald Reagan, "Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have made a difference in the world. Marines don't have that problem." Mr. Speaker, as a fellow Marine and a Member of Congress that represents Frank in this body, I am proud to once again thank him for his service and wish him all the best as he celebrates his 95th birthday. Frank, we are honored by the example you provide. Semper Fidelis.

HONORING THE CAREER OF HON.  
JOHN T. CURTIN

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2016*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and legacy of service of the Honorable John T. Curtin who is celebrating

his retirement from the post as a United States District Judge for the Western District of New York. After 48 years on the bench, no other local judge has served longer or, many would argue, with greater distinction than Judge Curtin.

Nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1967 at the urging of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, Curtin was a U.S. District Attorney with a reputation for organized crime investigations. As a federal judge, it was the 1972 Buffalo Public Schools desegregation suit that made Curtin a household name. His ruling led to a plan that included the forced busing of black and white students and the creation of specialized magnet schools designed to encourage the voluntary transfer of children. The order he signed would be hailed as a national model for how to integrate a diverse school district. Curtin also issued orders to desegregate Buffalo's police and fire departments, a move that ushered in a new generation of women and minority officers and firefighters which remains in effect to this day.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Curtin oversaw a huge lawsuit about toxic waste dumped in the Love Canal neighborhood of Niagara Falls. The case led to the relocation of hundreds of residents and became a national rallying cry for environmentalists. He would then later oversee the L.A. Boys gang case, in which he gave two of the longest prison terms in local history. Also, before most other Americans, he recognized the futility of the war on drugs and the damage it caused, when he stopped hearing drug cases more than 20 years ago.

Inside and outside the courtroom, Curtin was known for his soft-spoken demeanor and even-handed temperament. Curtin was well known for his courage and independence and his retirement marks the end of an era in Buffalo federal court, an era marked by landmark rulings and historic court cases.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor the career of the Honorable John T. Curtin. I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our congratulations on an accomplished career and to commend his dedication to his profession and the Western New York community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN D.  
WAGNER

### HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2016*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John D. Wagner, an outstanding member of the Northeast Ohio community who passed away on April 28th at the age of 69.

A lifelong resident of Barberton, Ohio, Mr. Wagner spent his life dedicated to service. One who not only provided for his family as a business manager of the local Number 219 Plumbers and Pipefitters Union, but also as one who provided for the members of his community. He served on multiple boards and councils, such as the Barberton City Council and the executive board of the Ohio AFL-CIO, just to name a few. John was also known for coaching the Barberton American Little League for many years.